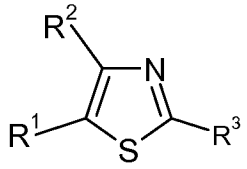
In the Claims:

The current status of all claims is listed below and supersedes all previous lists of claims.

Please cancel claims 7-11 without prejudice to their presentation in another application, and amend claims 1-3 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I)



I

wherein

R^1 and R^2 are ~~independently selected from~~ phenyl, ~~thienyl, and pyridyl,~~ each of which is independently optionally substituted with one, two or three Z groups;

Z is selected from a C_{1-6}alkyl group, a C_{1-6}alkoxy group, hydroxy, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethylthio, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethylsulphonyl, nitro, amino, mono or di C_{1-3}alkylamino, mono or di C_{1-3}alkylamido, C_{1-3}alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-3}alkoxycarbonyl, carboxy, cyano, carbamoyl, mono or di C_{1-3}alkyl carbamoyl, sulphamoyl , acetyl, -O-CH_2-CH_2-O- attached at two adjacent carbons, and phenyl, optionally substituted with one or more of the following: a C_{1-6}alkyl group, trifluoromethyl, a C_{1-6}alkoxy group, trifluoromethoxy, halo, or -O-CH_2-CH_2-O- attached at two adjacent carbons;

R^3 is -X-Y-NR^4R^5;

R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from:

~~a C_{1-6}alkyl group, optionally substituted with a C_{1-6}alkoxy group or trifluoromethoxy;~~

~~an (amino)C_{1-4}alkyl- group, wherein the amino is optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-3}alkyl groups;~~

~~a non-aromatic C_{3-15}carbocyclic group, optionally substituted with a C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{1-3}alkyl group;~~

~~a (C_{3-12}cycloalkyl)C_{1-3}alkyl- group;~~

~~a -$(CH_2)_r$(phenyl)$_s$ group, wherein r is 0,1, 2, 3 or 4, and wherein s is 1 when r is 0, otherwise s is 1 or 2, and wherein the phenyl groups are optionally independently substituted with one, two or three Z groups;~~

~~naphthyl;~~

~~anthracenyl;~~

a ~~saturated 5- to 8-membered heterocyclic~~ piperidine group ~~containing one nitrogen and~~ optionally containing one of the following: oxygen, sulphur or an additional nitrogen, wherein the ~~heterocyclic~~ piperidine group is optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-3}alkyl groups or benzyl;

~~1-adamantylmethyl; and~~

a -$(CH_2)_t$Het group, wherein t is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, and the alkylene chain is optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-3}alkyl groups, and wherein Het is ~~an aromatic heterocycle optionally substituted by one, two or three groups selected from a C_{1-6}alkyl group; a C_{1-6}alkoxy group, trifluoromethoxy or halo or Het is a saturated 5- to 8-membered heterocyclic~~ a piperidine group ~~containing one nitrogen and~~ optionally containing one of the following: oxygen, sulphur or an additional nitrogen; wherein the ~~heterocyclic~~ piperidine group is optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-3}alkyl groups, hydroxy or benzyl; and

wherein R^4 may be H; and

wherein R^4 and R^5 taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a ~~saturated 5- to 8-membered heterocyclic~~ piperidine group ~~containing one nitrogen~~ and optionally containing one of the following: oxygen, sulphur or an additional nitrogen; wherein the ~~heterocyclic~~ piperidine group is optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-3}alkyl groups, hydroxy or benzyl;

X is CO or SO_2; and

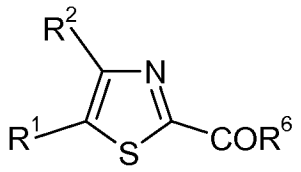
Y is absent or represents NH optionally substituted by a C_{1-3}alkyl group;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~, prodrug or solvate~~ thereof;

with the proviso that R^1 and R^2 are not both 4-methoxyphenyl and the proviso that when

R^1 is phenyl and R^2 represents phenyl or 4-fluorophenyl, X is CO and Y is absent then the group NR^4R^5 is not methyl-[2-[1-(phenylmethyl)-4-piperidinyl]ethyl]amino, methylpiperazino, 2-[1-methyl-4-piperidinyl]ethylamino, or [2-[1-(phenylmethyl)-4-piperidinyl]ethyl]amino.

2. (currently amended) A compound of formula I as represented by formula (II)



II

wherein

R^1 is phenyl, optionally substituted by one or more of the following: a C_{1-6}alkyl group, trifluoromethyl, a C_{1-6}alkoxy group, trifluoromethoxy, halo, or -O-CH_2-CH_2-O- attached at two adjacent carbons;

R^2 is phenyl, optionally substituted by one or more of the following: a C_{1-6}alkyl group, trifluoromethyl, a C_{1-6}alkoxy group, trifluoromethoxy, halo, or -O-CH_2-CH_2-O- attached at two adjacent carbons; and

R^6 is selected from 1-piperidinylamino, ~~a C_{3-7}cycloalkylamino group, optionally substituted by C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{1-3}alkyl, pyridylamino, wherein the pyridyl ring is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: a C_{1-6}alkyl group; a C_{1-6}alkoxy group or trifluoromethoxy; a C_{1-6}alkylamino group, wherein the alkyl chain is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: a C_{1-6}alkoxy group, trifluoromethoxy or morpholino~~;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~, prodrug or solvate~~ thereof~~;~~

~~with the proviso that when R^1 is 4-methoxyphenyl and R^2 is 4-methoxyphenyl, then R^6 is not 2-(morpholino)ethyl~~.

3. (currently amended) A compound selected from:

~~4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid cyclohexylamide;~~

~~5-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid cyclohexylamide;~~

4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-

ylamide;

5-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide;

~~4-(4-bromophenyl)-5-phenylthiazole-2-carboxylic acid cyclohexylamide;~~

4-(4-bromophenyl)-5-phenylthiazole-2-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide;

~~4,5-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid cyclohexylamide;~~

4,5-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide;

~~4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-phenylthiazole-2-carboxylic acid cyclohexylamide;~~

~~4,5-bis-(4-methoxyphenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid cyclohexylamide;~~

4,5-bis-(4-methoxyphenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide;

~~5-(7-bromo-2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]dioxin-6-yl)-4-phenylthiazole-2-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide;~~

~~4-(7-bromo-2,3-dihydrobenzo[1,4]dioxin-6-yl)-5-phenylthiazole-2-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide;~~

~~4,5-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxymethylcyclopentyl)-amide;~~

4,5-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid pyridin-4-ylamide;

~~4,5-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid (2-ethoxyethyl)amide;~~ and

4,5-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)thiazole-2-carboxylic acid (2-morpholin-4-yl-ethyl)amide

and where applicable, optical isomers, tautomers, stereoisomers and racemates thereof as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts ~~and solvates~~ thereof.

4. (canceled).

5. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound of any one of claims 1 to 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

6-11. (canceled).

REMARKS